



Brownfields Assessment Pilots

City of Manistee, MI

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Manistee for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot. Manistee is located on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan approximately 90 miles north of Grand Rapids. This small coastal community of 6,500 people has witnessed the deterioration of its once thriving industrial shipping economy. The remnants of this decline are reflected in large abandoned factories, unattractive shorelines with possible environmental problems, and a declining population. Manistee already has identified several potential brownfields and has targeted six of them for this Pilot. The specific sites include three vacant parcels in the city's industrial park, a wastewater treatment plant, an iron foundry, and a former boat manufacturing site. These potentially contaminated properties minimize the marketability of parcels in the industrial park, limit opportunities for reuse, and perpetuate economic instability in city neighborhoods.

Although Manistee is the only city in the county, and it serves most of the financial and social needs of the area, the local economy lags behind that of the state. Manistee's median household income is 26 percent lower than the statewide average, and 14.5 percent of the residents live in poverty compared to 11.5 percent statewide.

OBJECTIVES

Manistee's objective is to return the community to a productive place where families and businesses flourish and stay. To further this objective, the Pilot will help establish a brownfields program that can identify and assess sites, obtain cleanup funding, develop reuse plans, and involve the community in decision making.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*City of Manistee,
Michigan*

Date of Announcement:
May 2002

Amount: \$ 200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets six sites in a small coastal community that is economically distressed due to the decline of its industrial shipping activities.

Contacts:

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Regional Brownfields Team
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Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/brownfields

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting six Phase I environmental assessments;
- Conducting Phase II environmental assessments of target sites identified by Phase I environmental assessments;

- Developing cleanup and reuse plans; and
- Involving the community in decision making.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.